REMARKS

The Office action dated November 2, 2005, has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in response thereto.

Claim 16 stands objected to because of an informality which has been corrected in accordance with the Office action.

Claims 11 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claim 11 has been amended to depend from Claim 9, and Claim 18 has been amended to depend from Claim 16, in accordance with the suggestion of the Office action.

Claims 1, and 3-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Bowen (the '425 patent).

Claims 1, 8 and 15 have been amended to more specifically define the present invention over the cited prior art. An input shaft has been added as an element to those claims, for which support is present in the specification at page 5, line 2. Claim 1, 8 and 15 have also been amended to recite that the first power path transmits power between the input shaft and the first layshaft, the clutch driveably connects and disconnects the input and the input shaft, and the coupler connects and disconnects the input shaft and the second power path. These amendments emphasize that the input shaft is clutched to the input and is driveably connected to the first layshaft, whereas the input transmits power to the second power path. Importantly, the claimed assembly permits power to be delivered to the first and second layshafts through a single clutch. The device disclosed in Bowen requires two clutches for this purpose and the arrangement of the inputs and the first and second layshafts is different from that recited in Claims 1, 8 and 15. In the Bowen device, two clutches 36 and 46 are required to transmit power to the first and second layshafts through the pinion gear pairs 82-84 and 100-102.

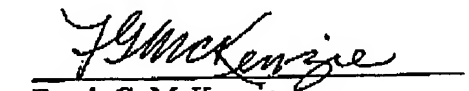
Claims 1-5, 8, 10, 12-15, 17, and 19-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Fisher ('188). Each of the independent claims, Claim 1, 8, and 15, define the invention such that an input shaft transmits power to the first power path, and the input is clutched to the input shaft, such that the first and second

layshafts are driveably connected to the input and input shaft through the operation of one clutch. In the device of the Fisher patent, two clutches, 18 and 22 are required to transmit power to the first layshaft 92 and second layshaft 62. Furthermore Fisher has no output, as recited in the independent claims, distinguished from a layshaft. The output gear 124 is driven through a pinion 122 that is fixed to the first layshaft 92. Therefore, there is no component in the Fisher device corresponding to the output recited in the independent claims. Also claims 1, 8 and 15 recite a first coupler for driveably connecting and disconnecting the output and the second power path. The couplers of Fisher connect various gears to layshafts, but there is no output connected by a coupler, as the claims define the present invention, because Fisher discloses nothing that corresponds to the claimed output, except a layshaft, which is claimed as a separate element from the output.

Claims 8-10, 12, 15-17, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Akashi (the '908 patent). Neither of the devices illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 of the '908 patent discloses an input shaft, a first power path that is continually secured to the input shaft, or a clutch for driveably connecting and disconnecting the input and the input shaft. Instead, the '908 patent discloses input 101 connected by a clutch 5 to a shaft 5(c), which requires a clutch 7(b) to connect it to layshaft 1. There is no power path that produces a speed ratio between shaft 5(c) and layshaft 1.

Claims 5 and 21 have been canceled. Claims 1-4, and 6-20, as amended, taken together with these remarks are distinguish over the cited prior art. The claims remaining in this application appear now in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Frank G. McKenzie
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 29,242

Dated: November 20, 2005
MacMillan, Sobanski & Todd, LLC
One Maritime Plaza, Fourth Floor
720 Water Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604
(734) 542-0900
(734) 542-9569 (fax)